

# Newsletter

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*"Empowering Youth for the Future"*

## Operation Safe Kids

Operation Safe Kids (OSK) is a program that provides increased monitoring and supervised community-based services to high-risk adjudicated youth.

## Baltimore City

### Male Reproductive Health Initiative

The Baltimore City Male Reproductive Health Initiative has hired an OSK Peer Educator. The peer educators will work 6 to 7 hours per week.

## March Madness

Operation Safe Kids collaborated with The Sexual Health and Responsible Peers Project (SHARP) and the Boys and Girls Club of Maryland to hold a Teen Health Fair and Basketball Clinic. The Fair included:

- ♦ Ask the Doctor: Free Health Information
- ♦ HIV/AIDS STD Prevention Information
- ♦ Hip-Hop Music
- ♦ Basketball Skills Clinics
- ♦ FOOD
- ♦ PRIZES
- ♦ FUN



**REMEMBER** to file your taxes before the April 15th deadline!!!

## Be S.H.A.R.P.

In Partnership with Operation Safe Kids, The Sexual Health and Responsible Peers Project (SHARP) will be holding group sessions: March 31, 2005 to June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2005. The session will be held every Thursday at 1515 W. North Ave (BCHD). Please contact your Youth Worker for more information.

**"A GROUP WHERE GUYS CAN BE GUYS"**



## Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

All children and adolescents experience stressful events which can affect them both emotionally and physically. Their reactions to stress are usually brief, and they recover without further problems. A child or adolescent who experiences a catastrophic event may develop ongoing difficulties known as posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The stressful or traumatic event involves a situation where someone's life has been threatened or severe injury has occurred (ex: they may be the victim or a witness of physical abuse, sexual abuse, violence in the home or in the community, automobile accidents, natural disasters (such as flood, fire, earthquakes), and being diagnosed with a life threatening illness). A child's risk of developing PTSD is related to the seriousness of the trauma, whether the trauma is repeated, the child's proximity to the trauma, and his/her relationship to the victim(s).

For more information on depression contact the OSK Office

## Take the PTSD Questionnaire:

If your child exhibits one or more of the following symptoms, he/she might be suffering from PTSD:

Worrying about dying at an early age?	Yes ___ No ___
Losing interest in activities?	Yes ___ No ___
Having headaches and stomachaches?	Yes ___ No ___
Sudden/Extreme emotional reactions?	Yes ___ No ___
Problems falling or staying asleep?	Yes ___ No ___
Showing Irritability or angry outbursts?	Yes ___ No ___
Having problems concentrating?	Yes ___ No ___
Acting younger than their age?	Yes ___ No ___
Increase alertness to environment?	Yes ___ No ___
Repeating behavior that reminds of the trauma?	Yes ___ No ___

For more information, visit the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at:

[www.aacap.org/publications/factsFam/ptsd70.htm](http://www.aacap.org/publications/factsFam/ptsd70.htm)



## YouthWorks 2005

Youth Works, Mayor Martin O'Malley's annual summer jobs program, helps Baltimore's young people ages 14 to 21 to find work.

Last year, Youth Works helped nearly 5,000 students gain work experiences at local businesses, government agencies and nonprofit organizations. Most Youth Works jobs offer minimum wage and a 30-hour per week schedule for five weeks. However, some jobs pay higher wages and continue for longer time periods, especially those provided by private employers.

All Operation Safe Kids youth, that are employment ready, are given first priority with summer job placements. Participating OSK youth will earn paychecks while strengthening skills and learning about various careers. Summer employment also helps them to establish potential mentors, future employers and life-long work ethics.

For more information visit the Office of Employment Development site at:

[www.oedworks.com/youthserv/summer.htm](http://www.oedworks.com/youthserv/summer.htm)



### The Fun Spot

Find The Words:

Operation ♦ Safe ♦ Kids ♦ March ♦ Madness ♦ Easter ♦ Empowerment ♦ Change ♦ Peace ♦ Hopeful

R T Y U P F A E T F S O L T  
D W Q I O D S A V G K L K N  
S F S A I H S A S D F H J E  
A V G H H O P E F U L Y D M  
D T Y U C I O K Q E R T S R  
F O P E R A T I O N R T A E  
G Q W E A R O D M P E Q R W  
H Y U I M E G S A F E A G O  
Y H I I Y T V B D E R A B P  
R W E R E S D P N E R T C M  
W Q W C H A N G E A S D G E  
E D F G A E L G S S X U B H  
T U I O W S D F S Q A W S G

## Up Coming Events...

May 10<sup>th</sup> is Mother's Day!

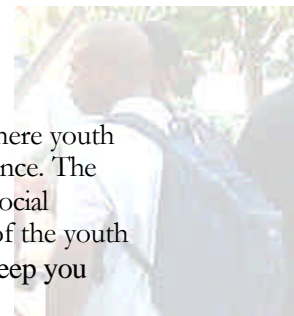
June 19<sup>th</sup> is Fathers day!

OSK plans to hold an event to celebrate all the parents/guardians in our program. We will keep you posted.



### REWARDS PROGRAM:

OSK is creating an Incentive Program where youth will receive rewards for program compliance. The level system will not only reinforce pro-social behavior, but also monitor the progress of the youth and guide their advancement. We will keep you posted as plan develops.



### NEW TEAM MEMBER:



Chioma Abangwu moved to Baltimore 4 years ago. She has a law degree from University of Nigeria. Please stop by and welcome Chioma Abangwu, Juvenile Case Manager Specialist with the Department of Juvenile Services.

### Riddles:

1. What is the longest word in the dictionary?
2. You have 2 American coins that add up to 35 cent. One of the, is not a dime. What are the coins?
3. Some months have 31 days, some have 30 days. But how many months have 28 days?
4. What is it that when you take away the whole, you still have some left over?

**Answers:**Smiles (there is a mile between the two S's)

1. Quarter and dime. Only one of the coins isn't a dime.
2. 12!!!
3. Wholesome